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The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 1145
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder,

I write today to request an immediate investigation into the activities of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, more commonly referred to as ACORN. The investigation should also include any related entities, affiliates or subsidiaries whom the organization would have, or may have, exercised dominion, control or manipulation.

Evidence has recently come to light suggesting that, at a minimum, employees of ACORN may have been engaged in illegal activity by aiding and abetting the following offenses: tax evasion, prostitution, human trafficking, fraud and conspiracy. After the release of video of ACORN employees in a Brooklyn office appearing to commit the aforementioned offenses, Kings County District Attorney Rackets Division announced they would be looking into the matter. Similar videos were reportedly taken in several other ACORN offices which appear to document a culture of corruption. I urge you to follow the lead of the Brooklyn authorities and launch a national investigation.

The events of late are not isolated. They appear to underscore a systemic pattern of illegal activities. To date, nearly 70 ACORN employees have been convicted in 12 states. Furthermore, a report published July 23, 2009 by the Minority Staff of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform entitled, "Is ACORN Intentionally Structured as a Criminal Enterprise?" outlined violation after violation that ACORN has allegedly committed or engaged in. According to the report, "Operationally, ACORN is a shell game played in 120 cities, 43 states and the District of Columbia through a complex structure designed to conceal illegal activities, to use taxpayer, and tax exempt dollars for partisan political purposes, and to distract investigators. Structurally, ACORN is a chess game in which senior management is shielded from accountability by multiple layers of volunteers and compensated employees who serve as pawns to take the fall for every bad act."

These allegations are serious and warrant an investigation on their own; however, given the added fact that ACORN is funded with millions in taxpayer money, I urge your immediate attention to the matter.

Sincerely,



Senator Mike Johanns

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